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Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Recipients

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Senior Fact Sheet

Aging and Long-Term Care Resources

The resources below will help put you in touch with information about state and area agencies, tribal organizations and private organizations serving the elderly in your community.

- **Area Agency on Aging**

1-800-510-2020

Information and access to your community's comprehensive network of community-based long-term care services.

- **HICAP – Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program**
1-800-434-0222

Provides assistance on questions related to Medicare, Medicare HMOs, Medicare supplements and long-term care insurance.

- **Medicare Office**

1-800-633-4227

- **California Department of Aging**
1-916-322-5290

1600 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

- **California Commission on Aging**
1-916-322-5630

California Senior Legislature
Triple-A Council of California
1020 9th Street, Room 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

- **AARP State Office**

1-916-446-AARP/2277

980 9th Street, Suite 700
Sacramento, CA 95814

- **Senior Legal Hotline**

www.seniorlegalhotline.org

Other important numbers:

- **Area Agency on Aging**

Call this office for comprehensive aging and long-term care related resources, information and referral in our community.

9335 Hazard Way, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92123

(800) 510-2020

- **APS/Adult Protective Services**

Call this office to report abuse (physical, emotional, financial or neglect) or suspected abuse of older or disabled people.

9335 Hazard Way, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92123

(800) 510-2020

- **In-Home Support Services**

Call this number if you need assistance with domestic services and you cannot afford to have an assistant.

9335 Hazard Way, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92123

(800) 510-2020

- **RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)**

Call this number to find out about our community volunteer programs.

9335 Hazard Way, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 505-6399

- **Local Welfare Office**

Metro Family Resource Center

1130 10th Ave.

San Diego, CA 92101

(866) 262-9881

Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Recipients

Medicare recipients are now able to pay less for their prescription drugs. Senate Bill 393 signed into law in 1999 by Governor Davis, enables Medicare recipients to obtain prescription drugs at a cost no higher than the Medi-Cal price.

You may be able to save up to 40 percent on the cost of your prescriptions. All you need is your Medicare card.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Recipients?

A. It is a program that requires Medi-Cal provider pharmacies to charge Medicare recipients no more than the Medi-Cal price for their prescription drugs.

Q. Who is eligible?

A. Anyone who has a Medicare card is eligible. That includes seniors age 65 and over and those under age 65 who are disabled and have a Medicare card.

Q. How does the program work?

A. When you give your prescription to the pharmacist, show your Medicare card and request the Medi-Cal price.

Q. Is Medi-Cal paying for my prescription medication?

A. No, Medi-Cal is not paying for the prescription. You, the Medicare recipient, are still responsible for paying for the prescription medication.

Q. What about phoned-in prescriptions?

A. Ask the doctor's office to advise the pharmacy that you are a Medicare patient when phoning in your prescription. Then show your card to the pharmacist when you pick up your prescription.

Q. Can I go to any pharmacy?

A. Only Medi-Cal provider pharmacies are **required** by law to charge a Medicare recipient no more than the Medi-Cal prescription price; but most pharmacies in California do participate in the Medi-Cal program. Ask your pharmacy if it is a Medi-Cal provider.

Q. How much will I have to pay?

A. That will depend on the medication, but it will not exceed the amount Medi-Cal pays the pharmacy for the medication, plus the .15¢ processing fee.

– Please keep in mind –

Obtaining prices from several pharmacies **may** help you find the lowest cost, but **it's best to get all your prescriptions from the same pharmacy**. The pharmacist can record all medications you are taking and what you are taking them for. Your pharmacist can tell you what to do if you have a bad reaction to a drug or find that a drug isn't working. Also, the pharmacist can check your new prescription to make sure it won't react badly with medicine you're **already** taking. Proper pharmaceutical care can protect your health – **or even save your life!**

For questions or for more information, call the California Board of Pharmacy at (916) 445-5014.

- All you need is your Medicare card.

- This program will not affect your coverage under the Medicare program.

- You do not have to be on Medi-Cal.

- Most prescription drugs are covered.

- You can receive the Medi-Cal price from your mail order pharmacy if that pharmacy is a Medi-Cal provider.